

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0173
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 0750

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR CH US UR
SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS ON JACKSON VISIT, SOVIET THEMES

1. SUMMARY: THREE RECENT ISSUES OF THE PRC'S RESTRICTED CIRCULATION TSAN KAO HSIAO HSI (REFERENCE NEWS) OBTAINED BY USLO PRESENT FOREIGN NEWS ARTICLES COVERING MUCH THE SMAE TOPICS AS THE OFFICIAL NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY. THE THREE ISSUES (FEB 24, 25 AND MARCH 6) CONTAIN ARTICLES ON SINO-JAPANESE AND SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS, ON CURRENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, AND THE CYPRUS KIDNAPPING, AS WELL AS COVERAGE OF CHINA'S OWN NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY SENATOR JACKSON AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE PRC AND A LONG WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON US POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE.

2. COVERAGE OF PRC DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE DEALT WITH BY SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

3. JACKSON INTERVIEW. THE FEB 25 ISSUE OF REFERENCE NEWS PRINTS ON PAGE 4 AN AP STORY ON SENATOR JACKSON'S
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FEB 22 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE ARTICLE QUOTES JACKSON AS SAYING THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT GIVEN A HIGH ENOUGH PRIORITY TO THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRC. HE ALSO STATED THAT CHINESE OIL DEPOSITS MAY BE GREATER THAN US KNOWN RESERVES, AND REPORTED THAT CHINESE LEADERS HOPE TO FIND A WAY TO ARRANGE TO BUY OIL TECHNOLOGY FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES. HE DESCRIBED A "NEW

OPEN ATTITUDE" TWARD THE OUTSIDE WORLD ON THE PART OF CHINESE LEADERS, BUT SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT "OUR COUNTRIES' LEADERS APPARENTLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINA'S OWN STRATEGIC ROLE."

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDES JACKSON'S COMMENT THAT ALTHOUGH CHINESE OFFICIALS HAD REFUSED HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE PRC STOP ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTS, HE THINKS THAT THEY ARE DEVELOPING THE CAPABILITY TO RELY ON UNDERGROUND TESTING.

5. IN A COMPANION PIECE, A REUTERS ARTICLE ON THE SAME PAGE REPORTS THAT JACKSON STATED HE SUPPORTED A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, BUT THAT THE US SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY ECONOMIC AND MLITARY AID TO TAIPEI. (COMMENT: SINCE THE IDEA OF CONTINUED US MILITARY AID TO TAIWAN HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY PRC LEADERS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT CHINESE READERS ARE NEVERTHELESS TOLD THAT IT IS FAVORED BY KACKSON WHO IS PORTRAYED AS SHARING MANY OF THE PRC'S VIEWS. END COMMENT.)

6. US-EASTERN EUROPE RELATIONS. PAGE 2 OF THE SAME ISSUE REPRINTS EXCERPTS FROM A FEB 20 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON THE STRENGTHENING OF US RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS PAID MORE ATTENTION TO EASTERN EUROPE INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING EXCLUSIVELY ON RELATIONS WITH

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MOSCOW AS THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION DID. IT HAS ALSO BROADENED ITS CONTACTS WITH THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE. THE ARTICLE CITES PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO WARSAW, THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PEKING 0750

RETURN OF ST. STEPHEN'S CROWN TO HUNGARY, AND THE (AT THAT TIME) FORTHCOMING VISITS TO WASHINGTON BY TITO AND CEAUSESCU AS EVIDENCE OF THIS TREND, WHICH IS AIMED AT HELPING THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE LOOSEN THEIR TIES WITH MOSCOW WITHOUT SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE SOVIETS' PREEMINENT POSITION IN THE REGION.

7. SOVIET POLICIES. THE FEB 25 ISSUE ALSO CARRIED AN AFP STORY ON THE SOVIET MILITARY AND ECONOMIC BUILDUP IN THE Khabarovsk area. THE REPORTER GIVES AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT THAT NOTES LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS IN THAT BORDER CITY AND AN AIRFIELD MUCH TOO LARGE FOR CIVILIAN USES. HE ALSO WRITES, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STILL INADEQUATE POPULATION IN THE REGION.

8. OTHER SOVIET RELATED ARTICLES ARE A DAILY TELEGRAPH PIECE IN THE MARCH 6 ISSUE OF REFERENCE NEWS DENOUNCING SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA AND CALLING FOR DECISIVE WESTERN ACTIONS TO COUNTER THEM; A UPI STORY IN THE SAME ISSUE DESCRIBING THE DEFICIENCIES OF PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA; AND A BRITISH STORY DISCUSSING THE LIMITED ACCESS GIVEN TO WESTERN OBSERVERS OF THE RECENT SOVIET WAR GAMES IN BYELORUSSIA.
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THE FEB 25 ISSUE HAS A FEB 20 ARTICLE FROM LE FIGARO ENTITLED "THE SOVIET UNION'S GRADUAL ESCALATION MAY LEAD TO A CHANGE IN US POLICY", WHICH INCLUDES THE CHARGE THAT MOSCOW HAS SENT TO ETHIOPIA 150 TO 200 EAST GERMAN EXPERTS IN TERROR, INCLUDING 15 FORMER NAZI OFFICERS. ITS CONCLUSION IS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF PLAYING DOWN SOVIET INVOLVEMENT HAS FAILED, AND THUS IS LIKELY TO BE CHANGED.

9. FINALLY, REFERENCE NEWS MARCH 6 PRINTS, AS ALWAYS WITHOUT COMMENT, A PRAVDA ARTICLE OF MARCH 4 DENOUNCING WESTERN POLICY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. THE ARTICLE INCLUDES THE STATEMENT THAT "MOGADISHU HAS RECEIVED A LARGE AMOUNT OF CHINESE WEAPONS FROM PEKING," AND THAT PRC MEDIA HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE UNITED STATES' AND THE WEST'S "AVOIDANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY" IN THE CONFLICT.

10. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION FROM THESE THREE ISSUES IS THAT, AT LEAST ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, REFERENCE NEWS TENDS

TO SELECT ARTICLES WHICH REINFORCE MAJOR PRC PROPAGANDA THEMES.

11. COPIES OF THESE ISSUES ARE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
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